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Tiverton

Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending

31st December, 1937.

TIVERTON:

PRINTED BY MASLANDS, 42A, FORE STREET.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

- (a) Part time M.O.H.:

 G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.
- (b) Sanitary Inspectors:

 W. KEMP, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., F.F.Sc.

 A. J. DENNIS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
- (c) Meat Inspector:

 W. P. ROBERTS, M.S.I.A.

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TO THE

TIVERTON

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, . 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA. 114,139 Acres.

Population (estimated) 1937, 19,130.

NUMBER OF INHABITED Houses, 5,158.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 5,207.

RATEABLE VALUE, £67,270.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £301.

Social Conditions. Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are on the whole good. There are also the following Industries, none of which have any specially deleterious effect upon health.

FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIES.

Duchess of Devonshire Dairy Co., Ltd., Tiverton Junction.

R. S. Norrish & Sons, Milk Factory, Sampford Peverell.

Fox's Serge Factory, Cullompton.

,, ,, Uffculme.

Sellwood's Tannery, Cullompton.

Paper Mills, Cullompton (Reed & Smith, Ltd.)

Paper Mills, Bradninch (Wiggins, Teape & Co., Ltd.)

Paper Mills, Silverton (Reed & Smith, Ltd.)

Wilts United Dairies, Ltd., Hemyock.

Lime Stone Quarries, Burlescombe and Holcombe Rogus.

SLAUGHTERING INDUSTRIES.

Lloyd Maunder, Ltd., Tiverton Junction.

C. & T. Harris & Sons (Calne) Ltd., Tiverton Junction.

Spear Bros. & Clark, Ltd., Cullompton.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Legitimate Births Illegitimate	250 11	125 4	136 7	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—13·1
Stillbirths	15	9	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still-births) births—57.1
Deaths	251	127	124	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population— 13.6 Corrected Death Rate 11.1 Comparability Factor .82
Deaths from di	seases & child	& acci d-birt	dents h	from sepsis Nil., other causes 2

Death Rate of Infants under one ye			
All infants per 1,000 live births	• • •	• •	65.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legiti	mate live l	births	64.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 i	llegitimate	live	
births			90.9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil.
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all a	ages)		2
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 yea	ers of age)		2
Cancer	,		39
STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.	1	Live	14.9
Births per 1,000 of population.		Still	0.60
Deaths			12.4
			58
Deaths under one year of age			90
TABLE OF DEATHS.		M.	F.
Cancer	• • • • •	16	23
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0 0 0	2	3
Other Tuberculosis		1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	• •	0	0
Influenza	0 0	8	6
Whooping Cough	• • • • •	0	2
	• •	0	0
P P		1	0
	• •	0	2
Pneumonia (all forms)		7	3
F		0	3
		9	9
		32	27
		3	6
		1	$\frac{0}{2}$
0.1 7.0 3	• · • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	11	
		2	· ·
		9	3
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		6	8
Congenital Debility or Premature I		5	6
17 1	,	5	5
Cui Di Di		2	4
Oll Ti Diagram		0	0
Septic Ulcer		2	0
Diphtheria	• • • • •	2	1

Excessive Mortality during the Year.

Deaths from Cancer are very much the highest yet recorded.

SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY.

Nothing of note.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

- 1. Nursing in the Home. No change.
- 2. Number of Midwives practising in the Area. The District Nurses of which there are 16 act in this capacity.
- 3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before.
- 4. Legislation in Force. There has been no change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
- 5. Hospitals. No change. The only Hospital connected with the Local Authority is the Tiverton Joint Isolation Hospital. This has proved adequate in accommodation during the past year.
- 6. Voluntary. The District is served by the Tiverton and the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospitals. The former has recently carried out an extension scheme. A maternity wing, consisting of a general ward of six beds and three private beds, has now been completed.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

With the exception of the Parishes included in the Regional Water Scheme, supplies generally are satisfactory, although in one or two cases there is a possibility of shortage in a dry period.

The Oakford Water Scheme is now in operation and has been found satisfactory.

Thorverton. Levels have now been taken in connection with the proposed Scheme for this Village.

17 Samples have been taken from Private Wells during the year for Chemical and Bacteriological examination, 2 of which were satisfactory and 15 unsatisfactory.

All these unsatisfactory sources will be superseded by the Regional Scheme.

CLEANSING OF SWIMMING BATHS. None in area at present.

SHOPS ACT. No action taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Disposal of Sewage throughout the District is fairly satisfactory although there is need for improvement.

It is hoped that a new Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme for Bampton will soon be put in hand as present conditions are bad. The new Senior Schools are not connected to the present works and the sewage is discharged into a ditch.

A Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme has been prepared for the Parish of Hemyock, and one is being prepared for Westleigh in the Parish of Burlescombe. A scheme is urgently required for Culmstock.

The disposal of sewage at Orchard View Council Houses, Halberton is now in order, but the Village as a whole still requires a disposal scheme.

The question of the disposal of effluents from the abattoirs and milk factory and crude sewage from the Council's sewers at Tiverton Junction in the Parish of Willand is now receiving attention.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSAL DISPOSAL.

The regional collecting scheme is now in force in 17 Parishes and is working satisfactorily.

SCHOOLS.

The general condition and sanitation of schools are satisfactory. New schools have been erected at Bampton by the County Council and the Church Council. Halberton school is badly in need of repair, and will be taken over by the County Education Authority who will bring it up to a proper standard.

Sampford Peverell Church School is in need of attention, but until the water supply and a sewer is available, little can be done.

A considerable amount of work has been done at Kentisbeare School, but the sanitary accommodation is still in need of attention. This also is waiting for the water supply.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses cleansed and redecor	ated	A 4 0	* * *	30
Nuisances from Cesspools an	d Waste I	Deposits	* * *	27
Wells closed	• d q	• • •	P # 3	Nil.
Water Certificates issued in a	respect of	New Dv	vellings	34
Number of Cowsheds and D	Dairies on	the Reg	gister at	200
			b • •	699
Number of Inspections				107
Milk Samples Taken		• • •		123
Bakehouse Inspections	~ 0 0		* e *	10
Shops and Food Stores		* * 5	• • •	220
Slaughterhouse Inspections	- · ·	0 0 b	⊕ 1} €	1143
Inspection of Butchers and C	Other Shop	ps		220
", ", Hide Stores	• • •	0 0 0	• • •	Nil.
Carcases condemned	* * *	* * *	***	775
Amount of unsound meat	• • £	E	$69 \text{ tons } 3\frac{1}{2}$	cwt.
Inspections of Schools		* * *	• • •	35
Disinfections-Infectious Dis	seases	• • •		33
,, Verminous	p 0		ė • •	Nil.

FORM 572.

1.—INSPECTION FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

	Number of					
PREMISES.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.			
(1)	(3)	(3)	(4)			
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	32	Nil	Nil			
Workshops	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Workplaces	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Total	32	Nil	Nil			

DISINFECTION FOR BED BUGS. None required.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Nil.

HOUSING.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—	
	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 269	3
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 869	}
	(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 35	õ
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 52	3
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 26	j
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 162	2
2.	Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—	f
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 68	3
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—	
	A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3	}
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners (work in hand) 3)
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.	

В.—Р	rocee	dings und	er Pub	lic H	ealth	Acts:			
(1)	notic	ber of dwe es were s died	served		ring d		to	be	Nil.
(2)		ber of dw remedied							
		(a) By	owner	'S		• • #			Nil.
		(b) By	Local ners		ority				Nil.
		dings und ng Act, 19		tions	11 a	nd 13	of t	he	
(1)		ber of hongs were		_	ect of	which	und		3
(2)		aber of b Demolition				in pu			Nil.
,	Act of	edings un 1936	der sec	ction	12 of	the I	Hous		Nil.
		<i>ing</i> :—							
(a	ı) 1.	Number end of the					dat		00
	2.	Number	of fam	ilies	dwelli	ng the	rein		28
	3.	Number	of pers	sons (dwellin	ng the	rein	• • •	$138\frac{1}{2}$
(8	b)	Number reported					rowo	ling 	0
(0) 1.	Number during th			vercro	wding 	relie	ved 	1
	2.	Number cases	of pe	rsons	conc	erned	in s	uch	£
(0	d)	Particula houses I after the for the a	nave as Local	gain Autho	becom crity h	e over ave tal	crow ken st	ded teps	<u>.</u>

4.

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

Plans are now being prepared for erection of houses to abate remaining cases of overcrowding.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

A great deal of steady progress has been made during the year, thanks chiefly to the effects of the accredited scheme.

SAMPLES OF MILK.

123 were taken for cleanliness with the result that 52 were reported as being satisfactory.

With regard to the unsatisfactory samples, producers' methods were corrected with satisfactory results.

All samples taken for tubercle were found to be negative.

(b) MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Regulations and Slaughterhouses (R. D. C.) Order, 1924.

No important change has taken place regarding the above. As a general rule premises are fairly satisfactory and any suggestions by the Sanitary Authorities are promptly carried out.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, and General Meat Inspection.

It was pleasing to note that with few exceptions, the slaughtermen now approve of the use of the gun, it was not found necessary to take any statutory action under the Act.

Meat inspection at the Willand abattoirs is now on a much better footing, as a whole time Inspector was appointed for this duty, early in the year.

- (c) ADULTERATION.—No action taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.
- (d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

 —This only applies to milk in this area. Samples are regularly submitted to the County Laboratories in Exeter.
- (e) NUTRITION.—No action taken.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

In connection with the work of supervising the general sanitary conditions throughout the District, periodical inspections have been made of Council houses, cottages, bakehouses, slaughterhouses, also butchers' shops, and dairy premises, where food is prepared and deposited for sale.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

This disease was not so prevalent in 1937, and was of the mild type which now seems to be the regular thing and which is correspondingly difficult of control. There were 21 cases in all.

DIPHTHERIA.

The villages of Bampton, Uffculme and Sampford Peverell were immunised against Diphtheria during the year. The school children of these villages receiving '25 and '5 C.C. doses of A.P.T. with an interval of 14 days between injections.

The percentage of school children treated at Bampton and Sampford Peverell was slightly over 90%, but at Uffculme only 60%.

The cases of Diphtheria reported, occurred at Oakford, but I am glad to say the children of this village are now inoculated.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox			
Scarlet Fever	24	22	
Diphtheria	8	8	3
Enteric Fever			
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	****
Puerperal Fever	1	0	emenu-sia
Pneumonia	18	4	10
Erysipelas	7	3	
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Dysentery (Sonné)	3	0	0

Under 1 Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Puerp e ral Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.	Encephalitis. Lethargica.	Dysen- tery. (Sonne)
1 2			And the second second			1		
2- 3	3		dan-suma	d parameter		*****		Eliteria de la seconia de la s
3-4		granations			1			
4- 5	3				Emildermana	an-mempa.	reduces artisting	
5 - 10	8	3		_	3			1
10-15	5	1			3			2
15 - 20	2	1	-		de-montes	1		
20 - 25	3	1	1	- Christian	2			-
25-30	galler and the same of the sam		1	1	programmes.		dránjevon	-
30-35	discourse	1.		Samparan	2			-
35—45	-				1		Salamonamo	
45 - 55					1	1		
65 - over		1			5	4		
Total	24	8	2	1	18	7		3

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. No cases notified.

DYSENTERY (Sonné). Although only three cases of this disease were notified towards the end of the year, there is no doubt the disease was widespread, affecting large numbers of children. The type of the disease was not a severe one and no deaths were attributed to it.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

It is satisfactory to note the steady diminution in this disease.

Ago		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		
<u></u>	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0			1	1		Mer Property	dimension.	1	
5	1	1		1		1		Spannanus	
10			1				1		
15				2 1					
20		1		1	2-selection			Territorium II	
25	2	1	2	1					
35		1		1				taker	
45	2	-						gaghirmolifik	
55	1	1			21-040000	1			
65 up	Property Company	-	-						
Total	6	5	4	7		2	1	1	

All the above deaths had been notified according to the Regulations.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925. No action was taken.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No action was taken.

I am indebted to the officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON.





